

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below:

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1. (Currently amended) A method for feeding a mixture of cellulose chips and fluid from a low-pressure system to a high-pressure system during the continuous cooking of chemical cellulose pulp, comprising:

10 arranging a sluice feeder between the low-pressure system and the high-pressure system for sluice feeding fluid and cellulose chips, the sluice feeder having a first inlet, a second inlet, a first outlet and a second outlet defined therein, the sluice feeder having a rotor with a first pocket and a second pocket placed alternately in connection with the 15 high-pressure system and the low-pressure system;

15 placing the first pocket, located in a first position, in connection with a chip bin or with an impregnation vessel ~~of the low-pressure system essentially at atmospheric pressure~~ 20 while filling the first pocket with a chips mixture and at the same time expelling fluid present in the first pocket via the first outlet;

25 placing the second pocket, located in a second position, via the second outlet in connection with a transfer line in the high-pressure system while feeding the chips mixture out from the second pocket;

30 transporting the chips mixture onwardly to a treatment vessel in the high-pressure system with an aid of a fluid that is fed into the second pocket through the second inlet;

connecting the second inlet via at least one withdrawal line connected to the treatment vessel;

35 withdrawing pressurized fluid from the treatment vessel;

positioning the first pocket into the second position so that the first pocket is in connection with the high-pressure

system;

using the pressurized fluid to expel chips mixture from the first pocket when the first pocket is in connection with the high-pressure system;

5 positioning the first pocket in the first position so that the first pocket is in connection with the low-pressure system; withdrawing previously pressurized fluid from the first pocket via the first outlet of the sluice feeder;
forwarding a portion (REC_{kik}) of the previously pressurized
10 fluid, withdrawn from the first outlet, directly to a recovery system wherein the withdrawn previously pressurized fluid portion (REC_{kik}) constituting at least 20% of a total amount (REC_{tot}) withdrawn for recovery, while being at least 1 m³/ton of pulp; and
15 reducing a total amount of electrical energy required to pump a chips suspension from the low pressure system to the high pressure system through the sluice feeder.

2. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1,
20 wherein a principal portion of the previously pressurized fluid is forwarded to a chip bin arranged before the sluice feeder before a portion (REC_{extr}) of the previously pressurized fluid is forwarded to the recovery system via a withdrawal from the chip bin.

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3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein a principal portion of the previously pressurized fluid is forwarded to an impregnation vessel ~~(3')~~ essentially at atmospheric pressure arranged before the sluice feeder before a portion (REC_{extr}) of the previously pressurized fluid is forwarded to the recovery system via a withdrawal from the impregnation vessel which is at atmospheric pressure.

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4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the pressurized fluid is

withdrawn from the treatment vessel with a strainer at a position in the treatment vessel where chips have had a retention time greater than 60 minutes.

5 5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 4,
wherein at least a portion of the pressurized fluid is
withdrawn from a top separator on the treatment vessel.

10 6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1
wherein a recirculation line has at least one high-pressure
pump and extends from the first outlet of the sluice feeder to
the second inlet of the sluice feeder for withdrawal of a
portion of the previously pressurized fluid that has been
expelled from the pockets of the sluice feed when the pockets
15 are located at their first position, for the addition of the
portion of the previously pressurized fluid as makeup fluid to
the second inlet of the sluice feeder.

15 7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1,
20 wherein a complete amount (REC_{kik}) of the previously
pressurized fluid is forwarded to the recovery system.